

2nd October 2017

Rt. Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Palace of Westminster
Westminster
London
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SCHOOL FUNDING - OPEN LETTER TO CHANCELLOR PHILIP HAMMOND

Dear Chancellor

Your first Autumn Budget is a landmark moment.

There will be many voices urging you to prioritise funding for different areas of public life. NAHT believes that there is no more important area than school funding, which is why it is so disappointing that the Treasury has been so silent on this key area.

The DfE has dug deep, reprioritising funding to pledge an additional £400m for 2018/19 and £900m in 2019/20 to plug the funding gap. NAHT welcomed this as a step in the right direction, but our own estimates are that in the light of growing pupil numbers and the GDP deflator published by the Office of Budget Responsibility to estimate general inflation over the period 2015-16 to 2019-20, schools will need at least an additional £2billion a year to retain the same level of funding in real terms as they received in 2015/16.

Put simply, schools do not have enough money. My association represents school leaders in the majority of schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They, along with teachers, governors and parents know that school budgets are being pushed beyond breaking point.

On their behalf, we have submitted a detailed representation to your Treasury consultation. We outline the reasons why school funding is still in crisis and offer independent evidence that the crisis represents an immediate problem for schools and young people.

For instance, in December 2016, the National Audit Office's report into "[The financial sustainability of schools](#)" reported the £3billion black hole in school funding, representing a real terms cut of 8% by 2020, and also expressed scepticism as to the government's plans to fill that. DfE data shows that 9,438 schools were in deficit in 2015-16, over a third of the total.

In your own Runnymede and Weybridge constituency, where there are 34 schools, funding will fall by £2,160,794 by 2020 meaning each pupil will have £160 less spent on them. 47 teacher posts will be lost.

We urge you not to stand by and simply let this happen.

NAHT would like to see education funded fully and fairly, investing at least £2bn a year more, with sufficient funds to lift the public sector pay cap and make a success of the new national funding formula.

When you give your budget speech in Parliament on 22nd November, please do not miss the opportunity to announce more money for schools and young people and to make it available immediately.

Yours faithfully



Paul Whiteman
General secretary, NAHT